



## Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for people who get **Supplemental Security Income\*** benefits or help from their state Medicaid program paying their Medicare premiums.

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will offer prescription drug plans to help you pay for the prescriptions you need. You will need to join a Medicare prescription drug plan for Medicare to pay for your drugs. Medicare will send you a letter in the mail in early summer 2005 and the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook in the fall with more information.

### **What do I need to know?**

- You must join a Medicare prescription drug plan for Medicare to pay for your drugs.
- You automatically qualify for extra help for your prescription drug costs. This means that if you join a Medicare prescription drug plan, you will pay a small amount out of your own pocket for the cost of your drugs.
- Compare your drug plan options and join. You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan starting November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006.
- Join by December 31, 2005 to not miss a day of Medicare drug coverage.
- If you don't join a plan by May 15, 2006, Medicare will enroll you in a plan to make sure you get help paying for your prescription drug costs.



## **How can I get more information?**

Detailed information from Medicare will be available in October 2005. You can look at the “Medicare & You 2006” handbook, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For more information on who can get extra help with prescription drug costs and how to apply, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) on the web. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

\*Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a monthly benefit paid by the Social Security Administration to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind or age 65 or older. SSI benefits are not the same as Social Security Benefits.

Look for local Medicare-related events.